

diameter terminating in an end wall, and a housing having a bore formed coaxial with respect to the shaft to be installed therein, the improvement comprising:

a plastic in situ molded annular sleeve within the bore of the housing concentrically disposed to be positionable about the outer diameter of the tip end portion of the shaft to be installed and to be nominally spaced radially from the outer diameter of the tip end portion, and wherein the sleeve is operable to supportingly engage the outer diameter of the tip end portion of the shaft only in response to radial loads acting to deflect the shaft into contact with the annular sleeve.

Cancel claim 2 without prejudice.

7. (Twice Amended) The improvement of claim 6, wherein the thrust member is an in situ injection molded thrust member.

18. (Amended) The motor/gear drive housing of claim 17 further comprising:

an injection molded plastic thrust member formed in situ within the at least one aperture of the housing, the thrust member disposed to be in coaxial registry with the end wall of the shaft to be installed, and operable to be engageable with the end wall of the shaft to be installed to prevent axial movement of the shaft, the outer diameter of the free tip end portion of the shaft to be installed being larger than a diameter of the thrust member engageable with the end wall of the free tip end portion of the shaft, the thrust member injection molded after installation of the shaft, wherein a portion of the end wall of the shaft defines at least a portion of a chamber to receive injected plastic forming the thrust member during injection molding.

27. (Amended) The improvement of claim 26 further comprising:
the aperture having a first portion of a first diameter and an axially endmost, coaxial, second portion of a smaller diameter, a shoulder formed between the first and second portions, and a first gate formed in the housing communicating with the first portion.

In the drawings:

A Request for Drawing Change Approval accompanies this Amendment adding new proposed Figure 6. Figure 6 is submitted in response to the Examiner's objection to the drawings in order to show the radial space between the outer diameter of the tip end portion of the shaft and the inner diameter of the in situ molded sleeve in the absence of radial loads.